

From: M.L. McCauley
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 11:01am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Sirs,

As a small businessman whose livelihood is based on the development of software, I feel that I am in as good a position as anyone to remark on the business practices of the Microsoft Corporation.

Microsoft is not simply an "aggressive competitor". Microsoft is a monopolist that repeatedly has employed unfair and illegal practices to quash its competitors and manipulate the marketplace to their advantage and the loss of the consuming public.

Despite their "spin" rhetoric, the contempt that Mr. Gates and his executives have for their customer base and competitors, and their cavalier disregard for the law of the land, is legendary within the industry. These realities are often masked by the fact that the consuming public is virtually powerless against the Microsoft Windows juggernaut, and competitors fear the wrath of a company who has proven time and again that it can, and will, do virtually anything to insure its dominance of the software marketplace.

I cannot sufficiently emphasize that I feel that the currently purposed DOJ settlement with Microsoft is highly inadequate in terms of both remedies for those many parties who have been harmed by this unfair competitor, and future protections for software developers and the consuming public.

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